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TCDC

Technical cooperation among developing countries

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Ninth session
New York, 30 May-2 June 1995

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco Javier BERGUIDO (Panama)

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 8	4
II.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	9 - 24	5
	A. Date and place of the session	9 - 10	5
	B. Attendance	11 - 19	5
	C. Opening of the session and election of the President	20 - 21	7
	D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	22	7
	E. Election of officers other than the President	23 - 24	7
III.	REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION		
	A. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme		
	B. Highlights of progress reports		

95-16184 (E) 010695 020695

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE		
A. Overview		
B. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and the implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission		
C. New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries		
D. Consideration of reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme		
1. Timing of future sessions of the High-level Committee		
2. Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries		
3. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (administrative, legal, information and financial, etc.)		
E. Comments by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries following the general debate		
V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT		
A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee		
B. Views expressed following the adoption of the decisions		
C. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the High-level Committee		
D. Draft report of the High-level Committee		

CONTENTS (continued)

Paragraphs Page

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Closing statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

B. Closing statement by the President

Annexes

I. Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its ninth session

II. List of documents before the High-level Committee at its ninth session

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/ as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, a high-level meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was convened at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980 to carry out an overall, intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) within the United Nations development system. The report of the first session of the intergovernmental body 2/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided to change the name of the high-level meeting to High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and requested the Administrator of UNDP to convene the next session of the Committee under the same organizational and procedural arrangements as had been made for the high-level meeting.

2. The second session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981 and its report 3/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee's second session and endorsed by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the structure of the third session of the High-level Committee consisted of the Committee in plenary meeting and only one working group, and this practice has been followed in subsequent sessions.

3. The third session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 31 May to 6 June 1983 and its report 4/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

4. The fourth session was held in New York from 28 May to 3 June 1985. Its report 5/ was considered by the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

5. The fifth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 May 1987 and its report 6/ was adopted on 27 May 1987. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-second session.

6. The sixth session was held in New York from 18 to 22 September 1989 and its report 7/ adopted on 29 September 1989. The General Assembly reviewed that report at its forty-fourth session.

7. The seventh session was held in New York from 28 to 31 May 1991 and its report 8/ was adopted on 6 June 1991. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-sixth session.

8. The eighth session was held in New York from 25 to 28 May 1993 and its report 9/ was adopted on 4 June 1993. The General Assembly considered that report at its forty-eighth session.

II. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the session

9. The ninth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical cooperation among Developing Countries was held in New York from 30 May to 2 June 1995.

10. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance (as of 31 May 1995)

11. The following States Members of the United Nations participating in UNDP were represented at the session:

Albania
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Bolivia
Botswana
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Ethiopia
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Kazakstan
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Syrian Arabic Republic
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Yemen
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

12. In addition, the representative of the Observer Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, which is also participating in the work of UNDP, attended the session.

13. Members of the following department of the United Nations Secretariat participated in the proceedings of the session:

United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services

14. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

15. The following United Nations bodies were also represented:

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Population Fund

16. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Telecommunication Union

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Universal Postal Union

World Bank

World Meteorological Organization

17. The following intergovernmental organizations, which have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, were represented at the session:

(to be inserted)

18. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers:

(to be inserted)

19. As proposed by the Administrator of UNDP in his report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session (A/34/415, para. 7), and as approved by the Assembly in its resolution 34/117 of 14 December 1979, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were invited. The following were represented at the session:

(to be inserted)

C. Opening of the session and election of the President

(Agenda items 1 and 2)

20. The ninth session of the High-level Committee was opened, on behalf of the Secretary-General, by the Administrator of UNDP, Mr. James Gustave Speth.

21. H.E. Mr. Soemadi D. M. Brotodiningrat, Director General for Foreign Economic Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, was elected President of the High-level Committee by acclamation.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 4)

22. The High-level Committee adopted the agenda (TCDC/9/L.1) and the organization of work (TCDC/9/L.2). A general debate was held in the plenary meetings on 30 and 31 May and 1 June on items 5, 6 and 7. The Working Group, which began its work on 31 May, was assigned agenda items 5, 6 and 7 for substantive discussion and recommendations to the Committee. For a list of documents considered by the Committee at its ninth session, see annex II to the present report.

E. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 3)

23. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Vice-President: H.E. Momodou Kebba Jallow (Gambia)

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco Javier Berguido (Panama)

24. The Committee approved the President's recommendation that Mr. Jallow should serve as Chairman of the Working Group. It was subsequently agreed that the Chairman should also serve as Rapporteur of the Working Group.

III. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION

(Agenda items 5, 6 and 7)

A. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

(to be inserted)

B. Highlights of progress reports

(to be inserted)

IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

(to be inserted)

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee

At its ___ meeting, on __ June 1995, the Committee considered the report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the High-level Committee. In its report, the Working Group recommended the adoption of three draft decisions. The three decisions were adopted at the ___ meeting. The texts of the decisions are reproduced in annex I to the present report (decisions 9/1, 9/2 and 9/3).

B. Views expressed following the adoption of the decisions

(to be inserted)

C. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the High-level Committee

(to be inserted)

D. Draft report of the High-level Committee

The Committee authorized its Rapporteur to complete its report, taking into account any amendments or comments received from delegations.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Closing statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

(to be inserted)

B. Closing statement by the President

(to be inserted)

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/35/39 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/36/39).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39).

5/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/40/39).

6/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/42/39).

7/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/44/39).

8/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/46/39).

9/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/48/39).

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its ninth session

(to be inserted)

ANNEX II

List of documents before the High-level Committee at its ninth session

(to be inserted)

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Ninth session
New York, 30 May-2 June 1995

DRAFT REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco Javier BERGUIDO (Panama)

Addendum

III. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION

A. Statement by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

1. In his opening statement, the Administrator of UNDP noted that considerable progress had been made in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) as an instrument of multilateral cooperation, but much remained to be done to fulfil its potential.

2. The Administrator also noted the increasing globalization of production structures and the growing emphasis on the creation of a liberalized international trading regime, which had posed a number of challenges for the developing countries. Other factors such as greater reliance on market forces in preference to public intervention, the emergence of new States from the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the conflicts involving peace-keeping and humanitarian efforts had also imposed new and urgent tasks on the international community, with the consequent pressure to reallocate resources, in some cases from traditional development goals.

3. Those new developments had stimulated an increased interest by developing countries in TCDC and South-South cooperation in general, with a view to ensuring a more effective and equitable participation in that newly emerging structure of international relations.

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4. The Administrator stressed his belief that those considerations established the need to identify new and imaginative initiatives in order to ensure that TCDC continued to be relevant to developing countries in the changed circumstances of the 1990s and beyond. It was for that reason that the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, had requested the High-level Committee to include in its agenda an item entitled "New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries".

5. In response to that request, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries had prepared a comprehensive report on the subject, which recommended the adoption of a new substantive and operational policy thrust for TCDC in order to enable it to respond to current realities. The report emphasized strategic initiatives and closer integration between TCDC and economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC). The strategic initiatives, however, should not be interpreted to mean that TCDC would not maintain its flexibility to respond to creative initiatives identified in the developing countries.

6. The Administrator stated that TCDC should not be seen as a substitute for traditional North-South development cooperation, but rather as a complementary effort. Strengthening the framework for multilateral development cooperation was needed, and TCDC must be seen as an integral part.

7. The Administrator noted that despite the tight budgetary situation of UNDP, it was important to strengthen the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as a way to respond to the decisions on new directions likely to emerge from the deliberations of the High-level Committee.

8. The Administrator noted also that at the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in September 1994, which had been held during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Group of 77/UNDP Award for TCDC had been launched in order to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Group and as a means to provide further incentive to the promotion of TCDC.

9. The Administrator concluded by noting that June 1995 marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by UNDP of the decision on a new direction, which emphasized the importance of integrating government execution and TCDC into UNDP-sponsored programmes and the symbolism of that event coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

B. Highlights of progress reports

1. Introduction of reports by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

10. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries submitted for consideration by the High-level Committee the report entitled "Review of the progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission" (TCDC/9/2 and Corr.1); the report entitled "New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries

(TCDC/9/3); and the report entitled "Consideration of reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (TCDC/9/4). Summaries of those documents, which served as the basis for the Committee's debate and its eventual decisions, are given below.

Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission Report

11. The report analyses information received from member Governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system and selected intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations regarding activities undertaken to promote and apply TCDC during the period 1993-1994, and summarizes the emerging trends that appeared from the information provided.

12. Many countries reported that they had established national TCDC focal points, but that their activities were constrained by insufficient staff, financial resources, coordination within the Government and understanding of TCDC.

13. Some countries stated that they had not established a comprehensive national policy on TCDC, although the importance given to the issue was widely recognized.

14. A large number of Governments of developing countries indicated that TCDC featured prominently in bilateral exchanges in a number of areas, including technical, scientific, trade and educational cooperation.

15. Many countries undertook TCDC missions or arranged visits by TCDC national focal points to promote TCDC with some of them resulting in actual TCDC agreements.

16. On the issue of financing, the report indicated that a large number of reporting countries had made allocations for TCDC in their national budgets, some of them from their national indicative planning figures (IPFs).

17. Statistics on training activities, exchange of experts and equipment under TCDC arrangements provided an important criterion for measuring the extent of TCDC and indicated a broad range of involvement by developing countries.

18. While the developed countries reported very few cases of direct support for TCDC activities under bilateral aid programmes, some of the countries used training facilities in developing countries under their fellowship and training programmes.

19. The report noted a substantial increase in TCDC promotional activities supported by the United Nations system. Many of the organizations and agencies had assisted developing countries in organizing meetings, seminars, workshops, study tours, training programmes, the exchange of expertise and technology and the maintenance of databases.

20. UNDP, through its Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, utilizing special programme resources had played an active role in promoting and applying TCDC exchanges through a variety of modalities, such as matching exercises, subject-specific workshops, capacity enhancement, studies and evaluations, as well as promotional and sensitization programmes. In addition, the TCDC Information Referral Service database (TCDC-INRES) had continued to improve and simplify its presentation of data on institutional capacities in the developing countries and had moved to decentralize access to its information.

21. TCDC efforts had been supported by the various regional bureaux of UNDP, particularly under their regional programmes, utilizing an estimated $35 million during 1993-1994, including an estimated $5 million in resources allocated under the special programme resources.

22. The report indicated the importance given to the elements of the 1990 South Commission report, 1/ which emphasized policies in five areas: strengthening national commitment to South-South cooperation, the use of training and educational facilities in developing countries, the promotion of South-South trade, cooperation between enterprises in the South and the strengthening of food security.

New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries

23. The report on new directions for TCDC was prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries with the mandate provided by General Assembly resolution 49/96, requesting the High-level Committee to include the item in the agenda of its ninth session.

24. The report noted the significant changes in international relations that had taken place during recent years, especially during the 1980s, and pointed out that those changes had given TCDC great potential as an important instrument in realizing the aspirations of developing countries and as a means of ensuring their effective integration in the new global order.

25. The report recommended that, in the future, TCDC should adopt a more strategic focus by supporting initiatives in a number of high priority areas, such as trade and investment, debt, poverty alleviation, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination and aid management, which were likely to have a major impact on a large number of developing countries.

26. It also called upon a closer operational integration between TCDC and ECDC.

27. Other main recommendations included the need to identify pivotal countries to serve as catalysts for promoting and implementing TCDC, the promotion of triangular cooperation arrangements under which donors agreed to fund exchanges among developing countries, the identification of subject-specific TCDC products, the expansion of TCDC-INRES into a multidimensional database, including information on several relevant centres of excellence, expert services and project experiences, as well as supporting the already existing institutional capacities in the developing countries.

28. At the institutional level, emphasis was placed on the strengthening of national TCDC focal points, restructuring of capacities and needs-matching exercises and the adoption of clearly stated national TCDC policies.

29. The report suggested that the High-level Committee should continue to serve as the intergovernmental entity responsible for TCDC. It proposed that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries be further strengthened in order to enable it to continue its role as coordinator for promotion and application of TCDC within the United Nations development system.

30. The report made specific recommendations, including consideration of a number of financing modalities in order to increase the allocation of resources for TCDC during the next programming cycle. It also recommended establishing links with non-governmental organizations and the private sector in order to provide a mechanism for their participation in TCDC activities.

31. A document entitled "Bandung framework for Asia-Africa cooperation: working together towards the twenty-first century" (TCDC/9/3/Add.1, annex, appendix), containing the conclusions of the recommendations of the Asia-Africa Forum held at Bandung, Indonesia, from 12 to 16 December 1994, was also considered.

Consideration of reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of UNDP

32. The report dealt with issues regarding the timing of future sessions of the High-level Committee, the implementation of guidelines for the review of policies and procedures of the United Nations development system on TCDC and organizational and supportive arrangements for TCDC.

33. On the issue of timing of future sessions of the High-level Committee, since most of the organizations of the United Nations development system operated on a calendar-year basis and their reports of the previous years were only available in March, it had proved difficult for the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to include up-to-date information in its written reports to the High-level Committee. For that reason, at its eighth session, the High-level Committee had requested the Bureau to consider, on the advice of the Administrator, the possible adjustment of the timing of the High-level Committee in order to take account of that problem. However, having reviewed the various options, the Bureau and the Administrator had concluded that it would be preferable to maintain the current schedule of meetings of the High-level Committee, on the understanding that United Nations organizations could provide verbal updated reports to the High-level Committee in order to provide additional relevant information on their activities.

34. In terms of the implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system on TCDC and in pursuance of the decisions of the eighth session of the High-level Committee, a meeting of United Nations agency focal points had been held in July 1993. That meeting had decided that UNDP should emphasize a common system-wide definition of TCDC, a check-list of core policy elements, self-contained instructions of TCDC for staff and strengthening of internal systems for monitoring and review of TCDC.

35. On the question of supportive and organizational arrangements for TCDC, the report noted that because of the overall resource constraints, the special programme resources allocation for TCDC had been reduced by 30 per cent from the level of $15 million originally approved. For the period 1992-1996, the total resources available for the programme was $13.25 million, including $2.75 million carried over from the fourth cycle.

Notes

1/ New York University Press, 1990. For an overview and summary of the report, see A/45/810 and Corr.1, annex.

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DRAFT REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco Javier BERGUIDO (Panama)

Addendum

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Closing statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

1. The Associate Administrator congratulated the President on his excellent work in guiding the conduct of the meeting and commended the Bureau for its able support, which had facilitated the work and permitted the delegations to express and exchange their views. He also expressed his appreciation to the delegations for the guidance they had provided during the session on TCDC policies and activities to be carried out in the future.

2. He noted that preparations for the session of the High-level Committee had been preceded by extensive debates and consultations among Governments, the United Nations Development system and international organizations, including non-governmental organizations, on TCDC activities undertaken and ideas to develop new directions for TCDC.

3. He also noted the consultations carried out by the President and the Bureau on political, administrative and financial matters concerning the High-level Committee in support of TCDC activities.

4. The Associate Administrator noted the wide support received on the proposal on new directions and stated his intention to facilitate the implementation of the new mandate as expressed in decision 9/2 of the High-level Committee.

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5. He stated that the decisions adopted at the session of the High-level Committee were not only an adequate and logical continuation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 and the decisions taken at the eighth session of the High-level Committee, but could also be considered a landmark in revitalizing TCDC. Among the key decisions were the priority issues of the adoption of more strategic initiatives for TCDC, the concentration of activities in relevant areas and the closer integration of TCDC and ECDC.

6. He reiterated the commitment of UNDP to strengthen the resources of the Special Unit to enable it to carry out its responsibilities and to respond to the decision on new directions that had emerged from the session of the High-level Committee.

7. The Associate Administrator had made specific proposals to strengthen allocations to TCDC during the next programming cycle. He emphasized that those recommendations were to be examined by the UNDP Executive Board scheduled to meet in the next few weeks.

8. The Associate Administrator commended the Secretariat for the hard work carried out in support of the session of the High-level Committee and expressed his appreciation to the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and his staff for preparing the documentation and for the services provided to the High-level Committee .

B. Closing statement by the President

9. The President closed the session by expressing his satisfaction with the positive results obtained and the high level of cooperation demonstrated by Governments as well as the United Nations development system.

10. The President noted the positive views expressed by delegations in the realistic and feasible recommendations made in the document on new directions for TCDC and requested the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to assist in the implementation of those decisions.

11. The President congratulated the delegations on the results achieved and thanked the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur, UNDP and the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the members of the Secretariat for their important contribution to the successful conclusion of the session.

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New York, 30 May-2 June 1995

DRAFT REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Francisco Javier BERGUIDO (Panama)

Addendum

IV. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

A. Overview

1. The general debate started with a statement by the representative of the Philippines, who spoke on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He stated that great importance was attached to TCDC and South-South cooperation in general as a central aspect of multilateral development cooperation. The technologies, technical expertise and know-how of the developing countries were frequently more suitable for other developing countries because of the similarities they shared. Furthermore, the fundamental changes now taking place in the structure of international relations had reinforced the need for new directions for TCDC.

2. He endorsed the proposals contained in the report on new directions for TCDC (TCDC/9/3) for a more strategic focus on TCDC in order to increase the impact and effectiveness of initiatives in that area. That would require, inter alia, improvement of information systems regarding needs and capacities to facilitate comparison and linking, not only of the priority needs of countries, but also of their comparative advantages.

3. He expressed support for the priority areas identified, namely, trade and investment, debt, environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, and science and technology. He endorsed the concept of demand-oriented human resource development and urged closer operational linkage between TCDC and ECDC,

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especially because TCDC could be an important instrument in promoting a wider pattern of economic cooperation.

4. He reiterated the need for the adoption by developing countries of comprehensive national TCDC policies in order to provide for a suitable framework for the promotion and application of TCDC activities and emphasized the importance of promoting national TCDC focal points as catalysts in furthering TCDC. He also supported the case for effective institutional arrangements and adequate funding for the new initiatives in TCDC.

5. The representative of the Philippines welcomed the launching of the Group of 77/UNDP award for TCDC/ECDC and the Japanese support to South-South cooperation initiatives. He also underscored the importance of maintaining the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the structure of UNDP.

6. Most delegations indicated their support for the views expressed on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

7. The representative of France, speaking also on behalf of the European Union, reaffirmed the importance of TCDC and its potential for capacity development in the developing countries and for promotion of regional cooperation. She stated that the diversity now emerging in the developing nations should contribute to the sharing of development experiences and thus promote TCDC. TCDC should not, however, be limited to economic aspects of development and should cover other areas like social development or environmental protection.

8. The representative of France noted with interest the proposed priority areas for strategic initiatives and maintained that TCDC activities should be focused on clearly defined areas. She drew attention to the needs of the least developed countries and stated that strategic initiatives should be taken to benefit those countries as well. She supported the proposal for the compilation and dissemination of information on successes of TCDC.

9. She also welcomed the proposed increase in TCDC activities in the upcoming cycle as long as it did not reduce allocations for country programmes. She urged that all institutions dealing with TCDC should improve coordination of their activities. Finally, she maintained that TCDC merited additional support by the international community.

10. Most delegations noted the changed economic environment in almost all countries in which the private sector and non-governmental organizations were playing a greater and more important role in national development enterprise. They recognized the need for involving new economic actors, such as non-governmental organizations, professional bodies, academia, chambers of private sector businesses and industries, in TCDC in a substantive manner.

11. There was general agreement that despite the significant progress registered since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 1978 many needs remained unmet and the full potential of TCDC remained unrealized. The changed global environment presented an opportunity to set TCDC on a new path

and to intensify its activities. South-South cooperation had increased in various spheres, and TCDC on a bilateral basis had become a significant element in development cooperation. The TCDC modality could be viewed as an important lever for the empowerment of developing countries as it meant the use of technical resources of developing countries as agents of change in the development process of those countries. It was recognized at the same time that TCDC was complementary to traditional technical cooperation and would certainly not replace it altogether; but there was justification for enhancing the application of that modality more extensively in order to make the best use of the limited availability of aid funds.

12. Most delegations made the point that the primary responsibility for implementing TCDC lay with the developing countries and for that purpose various modalities of cooperation were being applied, including larger allocation of budgetary resources by the countries themselves. But almost all delegations singled out financial constraints as the major impediment to wider application of the TCDC modality. Numerous delegations argued for greater support from the developed countries and the international development and financial institutions. Some suggestions were made for greater financial contribution for TCDC from the private sector, and transnational corporations in particular. The idea of triangular funding, by which the financial resources of developed countries could be used to acquire the appropriate technical resources of developing countries in order to meet the needs of other developing countries, received universal endorsement from all delegations. Almost all delegations urged donor agencies and countries to broaden and expand the scope of triangular technical cooperation.

13. Some delegations pointed out that lack of understanding of the concept and objectives of TCDC hampered its application. The organization of effective national focal points and articulation of national TCDC policies were emphasized by many delegations as essential institutional underpinnings for expanding TCDC activities.

14. A great deal of emphasis was placed on optimal use of information technology for the promotion of TCDC. Most delegations welcomed the improved TCDC-INRES and supported its expansion into a multidimensional reference service. In particular the proposals for compiling successful experiences, preparing lists of experts and exchanging database with other systems in the United Nations development system received strong endorsement.

15. Several delegations alluded to the problem of poverty and the plight of the least developed countries. Marginalization of many less developed countries also drew attention. It was considered that TCDC should focus on those issues, which were of great relevance to a number of developing countries. The small island developing States initiative was welcomed in that context.

16. The subject of TCDC in the context of tackling the problems of the transitional economies was referred to by a number of delegations. The initiative of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was welcomed in that context.

17. Many delegations emphasized the importance of human resource development and the pivotal role that TCDC could play in it. Many delegations stated that education and training facilities available in the developing countries were being used extensively for improving the manpower of the developing countries. The exchange of experts was providing for upgrading the quality of public servants, business managers and technical personnel in those countries.

18. The subject of closer operational integration between TCDC and ECDC drew considerable attention from most delegations. In that context statements were made in support of strengthening the role of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and institutionalizing greater collaboration between that unit and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Delegations maintained that challenges posed by the changing world situation warranted revitalization of TCDC and ECDC in an integrated manner.

B. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission

19. A number of delegations provided information on their TCDC policies and activities and others supplemented the information already provided in the report of the Administrator (TCDC/9/2).

20. A few delegations pointed out the difficulties being experienced in supporting TCDC activities owing to the resource constraints brought about by adjustment programmes, debt problems and a decline in the flow of external assistance. They made a special plea for expansion of the cost-effective TCDC modality with financial support from donor agencies and countries. The situation prevailing in some African and least developed countries was cited in that connection.

21. The emphasis placed on regional cooperation by developing countries in all regions, such as eastern and southern Africa, South Asia, Latin America as a whole, and Central America and the Caribbean in particular, was brought up by some delegations and in that context validity of the TCDC modality was reaffirmed. Delegations reported on their activities in the framework of regional cooperation groups and sub-groups. A few delegations of intergovernmental organizations, like the Organization of American States, the International Organization for Migration, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, the Latin American Economic System and the Central American Economic System, also described their efforts in regional cooperation and economic integration.

22. Many delegations gave an account of their support for training programmes for personnel of developing countries and some countries acknowledged the contribution of donors in facilitating such programmes. A donor country delegation spoke of its third-country training and partnership programmes supporting training of developing country personnel by developing country trainers and institutions in some developing countries. Some intergovernmental

organizations, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean region, also described their training programmes which were designed and executed in the TCDC modality. Indonesia announced its plans to establish a centre of excellence designated as the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation. One delegation suggested that advanced centres of training and research should now be set up in the southern countries and the United Nations development system should assist such ventures. Several countries reported on the training of large numbers of personnel from other developing countries and also providing facilities for students in institutions of higher learning.

23. Some delegations regretted the lack of political commitment and the insufficient or declining capacity of national institutions standing in the way of expansion of TCDC. Many delegations asked for support from the United Nations development system in developing centres of excellence or at least helping established institutions with programme support. Some others referred to the lack of understanding of the concept of TCDC and the absence of clarity in respect of the design of South-South cooperation modalities. In that context the importance of strong national TCDC focal points and clear national TCDC policies was emphasized. Some delegations also suggested that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should help in the formulation of country TCDC policies. Some delegations commented on the structure, authority, role and strategic location of the national focal points.

24. Some delegations described their national cooperation programmes under which TCDC activities were undertaken and indicated increasing dedication of national resources for TCDC. Some delegations also mentioned the various bilateral cooperation framework agreements and listed activities undertaken under them. Some countries stated that they were executing cooperation programmes with a large number of countries, in some cases up to 80 or 100. They also reported having various cooperation programmes covering many countries or with specific regional focus like Africa or Central Asia. The discussions clearly indicated a much higher level of actual TCDC than was generally observed or reported. It also reflected strong commitment to TCDC of some of the better-placed developing countries, such as the Republic of Korea, Turkey, Mexico, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Venezuela, Chile, Pakistan and Singapore. The importance of proper reporting was touched upon by a few delegations and the compilation of data on TCDC activities at the national level was strongly recommended.

25. Many delegations spoke of the value and importance of capacities and needs matching exercises and the publication of compendiums on needs and capacities. Some delegations felt that the distinction between promotional and operational TCDC activities should be done away with and all TCDC activities should be considered as activities of horizontal cooperation. Some delegations complained about the delay in the compilation of reports on capacities and needs matching exercises, which held up the implementation of accords. One delegation suggested that capacities and needs matching exercises should now consider joint ventures and should not be limited to technical cooperation activities. The value of country missions in making a capacities and needs matching exercise fruitful was mentioned as well.

26. Some delegations spoke of the need for a policy on the use of TCDC experts and welcomed the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as a propitious beginning.

27. It was noted that lack of financing or very limited financing was hindering wider use of TCDC experts where it could make a positive impact on development.

28. Some delegations referred to mainstreaming of women in development in TCDC activities. It was said that conscious efforts must be made to increase awareness of the importance of incorporating women in all development activities and for that purpose special programmes and targeted actions should be undertaken.

29. Most delegations sought greater support for TCDC activities by the United Nations organizations and agencies. Some delegations suggested the earmarking of more resources for TCDC and considered that umbrella projects were important instruments for the expansion of TCDC. However, there was an emerging consensus that developing countries should take action on a priority basis to expand TCDC.

30. A number of agencies and organizations of the United Nations system provided supplementary information on the high levels of support provided by them in promoting TCDC in operational activities. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) gave detailed statements on their TCDC activities. Most of those delegations emphasized the need for greater coordination of their activities. The statements of agency representatives brought out a wealth of information on various TCDC activities, ranging from seminars and workshops, training programmes, use of experts and transfer of technology and experience, to establishment and support of networking and support to regional cooperation arrangements.

31. A large number of delegations referred to the five main points of the report of the South Commission relating to TCDC. The subjects most emphasized were the inculcation of a South consciousness, the promotion of joint ventures and measures for trade expansion.

32. Many delegations acknowledged the changes in the database and accessibility of TCDC-INRES and expressed the hope that its use would increase. The conversion of the database into a multidimensional storehouse of information, as reported in paragraph 14 above, was strongly supported by many delegations.

C. New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries

33. The analysis provided and the proposals made for reorientation of present activities and new initiatives for TCDC were by and large supported by all the delegations that spoke on the subject, with many delegations focusing exclusively on the subject. The timeliness of the review and the new thrust at an opportune moment were widely commended.

34. The issue of strategic initiatives appeared attractive to all delegations. However, a number of delegations listed additional items under priority areas. In addition to the items listed by way of illustration in the report (e.g., trade and investment, poverty alleviation, debt, the environment, macro-economic policy coordination, production and employment and aid coordination), other items enumerated were: reform and modernization of the State, human resource development (education and health programmes), development of local government, transfer of technology, rural development, small and medium industry, land conservation, rural energy development and tourism. It was also clarified that attention should be focused on selected priority themes in which cooperating countries would be interested and there would be no imposition from above or outside.

35. The idea of doing away with the distinction between promotional and operational TCDC also received general endorsement. More important, however, were the interventions of delegations on the closer operational integration of TCDC and ECDC. The gradual falling apart of the twin pillars of South-South cooperation was regretted by some delegations. There was a demand for a further exploration of ways of interrelating the concepts of TCDC, ECDC and South-South cooperation and creating what might be called a continuum of TCDC and ECDC. Some delegations asked for a strengthening of the relations between TCDC and ECDC and suggested that they should be considered in an integrated manner as two sides of the same coin. There was a call for greater coordination of efforts and activities between the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and UNCTAD and provision of some institutional linkage between the two.

36. Many delegations spoke on the small island developing States initiative, the Asia-Africa Forum (Bandung) initiative and the cooperation initiative of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the CIS countries and extolled their strategic significance and imaginative design. These were considered to be creditable innovations and a testimony to the potential of TCDC.

37. Another idea put forward by one delegation for promotion of TCDC was the organization of half-day sessions for case-studies on a country or a project basis consisting, for example, of a short presentation on an initiative by the representative of the country or United Nations body and then a brief discussion.

38. Trilateral cooperation or triangular funding of TCDC activities drew attention from virtually all delegations. It was generally agreed that TCDC was very cost-effective and in many cases the only appropriate cooperation programme for some specific purpose or objective. Some delegations expounded on some of the triangular arrangements supported by France, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea. The broadening of the concept and its wider use was strongly recommended by all delegations. Some delegations suggested that trust funds or special funds for specific programmes could be set up.

39. Another idea propounded in the report, which drew universal attention, was the involvement of the private sector and the civil society in TCDC activities. A few delegations asked for a study on how to incorporate the private sector in TCDC. At least two delegations stated that the private sector was already

involved directly in TCDC. Another delegation supported the idea of national commissions on TCDC incorporating all interests. Some others felt that countries should find their own ways of involving the non-governmental and private sectors in TCDC policy formulation as well as operational activities. Suggestions for not overlooking interests of academia and research people, labour force and financial institutions were also made. A further point made was that while TCDC could be utilized more in the public sector, ECDC - the next step - was primarily a matter for the private sector.

40. The private sector was also considered by some delegations as a good source of financing technical cooperation activities between countries irrespective of whether it involved the private sector.

41. It was suggested by several delegations that the pooling of resources devoted to TCDC in a country would yield better use of resources and appropriate prioritization of cooperation programmes. Some delegations asked for greater allocation by developing countries of budgetary resources for TCDC.

42. One delegation asked for the enhancement of projects in the areas of joint product research for commercialization, initiation of specific ventures on new technologies and the pooling of expertise and resources for new ventures. That emanated from the perception of TCDC and ECDC as a continuum and de-emphasized the distinction between promotional and operational TCDC.

43. Most delegations welcomed the experts meeting on South-South cooperation and appreciated the close coordination between the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and UNCTAD in the planning and organization of the meeting. In the changed context of the world political economy, it was considered very essential to look at the issue in all its implications and to review both the positive and negative elements in order to outline a plan for the future.

D. Consideration of reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

44. Only two delegations spoke in favour of changing the present timing of sessions of the High-level Committee.

45. With regard to the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning TCDC, several agencies and organizations of the United Nations system gave an account of their programmes for sensitization of staff, priority areas for consideration of the application of the TCDC modality and new initiatives for promotion of TCDC. It was noted that the subject would be reviewed at the meeting of the agency focal points to be held the following week.

46. All delegations that took the floor emphasized the need for retaining the separate identity of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the structure of UNDP. All delegations supported the strengthening of the Unit to enable it to meet the objectives of the new

directions strategy. The intention of the Administrator to preserve the existing staff level and to provide for larger allocations in the next programming cycle was warmly welcomed.

E. Comments by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries following the general debate

47. The Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries expressed his gratitude to the High-level Committee for its endorsement of the recommendations contained in the document on new directions for TCDC (TCDC/9/3).

48. He noted the mandate given by the High-level Committee to the Special Unit for the adoption of more strategic orientations for TCDC in order to achieve a greater impact on developing countries.

49. He also noted the relevance given in particular to some aspects of the report, such as the adoption of national TCDC policies, the strengthening of national focal points and the promotion of triangular funding arrangements in support of TCDC.

50. He gave the assurance that the Special Unit would continue to consult with Governments, the United Nations development system and other relevant bodies in identifying creative and effective ways of implementing the recommendations on new directions for TCDC.

F. Other matters

51. In other matters, a number of delegations requested that the Bureau, in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP, explore the possibility of arranging for several delegations, based on equitable geographical representation and an involvement in TCDC activities, to make presentations during the tenth session on their experiences with TCDC for a period to be specified by the Bureau.

52. The Director of the Special Unit welcomed the proposal made by the delegations and stated that the Special Unit, through its Director, would present to the Bureau proposals as to the most effective manner in which those presentations might be made.

UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical cooperation among developing countries

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31 May 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Ninth session
New York, 30 May-2 June 1995

Draft decision recommended by the Chairman of the Working Group

[9/1] Progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, 1/

1. Expresses satisfaction with the increase in activities of technical cooperation among developing countries reported by both developing countries and the United Nations development system;

2. Calls upon all parties in the development effort to give the highest priority to the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 of 30 July 1992, giving first consideration to use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in their technical cooperation programmes;

3. Expresses the hope that greater commitment to the utilization of technical cooperation among developing countries will be promoted through the strengthening of national focal points and by increasing financial support for activities of technical cooperation among developing countries;

1/ TCDC/9/2 and Corr.1.

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4. Notes with appreciation the new approaches and strategic initiatives which have characterized the programme supported by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, such as the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme, the Asia-Africa Forum initiative and the proposed exchange of experience between some countries of Latin America and some countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

5. Notes with appreciation the importance given in the activities of technical cooperation among developing countries to key elements in the South Commission report;

6. Urges all parties in the development effort to continue to accord high priority to these key elements, which include, inter alia, strengthening national commitment to South-South cooperation, the use of developing country training and education facilities, the promotion of South-South trade, cooperation between enterprises in the South and strengthening food security;

7. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations development system and relevant intergovernmental organizations to continue to improve the quality and timeliness of reporting on the promotion and application of activities of technical cooperation among developing countries at subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

8. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its tenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

UNITED NATIONS

TCDC

Technical cooperation among developing countries

Distr.
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TCDC/9/L.5
1 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Draft decision recommended by the Chairman of the Working Group

[9/2] New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the importance of programmes for technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries as an instrument of multilateral development cooperation,

1. Welcomes the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 1/ prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994, and expresses its belief that the report constitutes an important contribution for the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;

2. Recognizes the importance of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries in increasing the use of both technical cooperation among developing countries and economic cooperation among developing countries as dynamic instruments to support the development of developing countries and for expanded South-South cooperation;

3. Endorses, in general, the recommendations of the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries as an important means for harnessing the significant capacities which exist in the developing world;

4. Supports in particular the recommendations on adopting a more strategic focus for technical cooperation among developing countries and on selecting priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, transfer of technology and rural development;

1/ TCDC/9/3.

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5. Urges Governments and United Nations organizations as well as other institutions and entities in both the public and the private sectors, particularly in developed countries, to incorporate the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes for technical cooperation;

6. Calls upon Governments and United Nations organizations to increase budget allocations for technical cooperation among developing countries and identify new funding arrangements such as triangular funding and private-sector funding, and to mobilize the contributions of bilateral and multilateral donors so as to ensure that adequate resources are available to implement the recommendations on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries;

7. Endorses the recommendation to strengthen the Special Unit for TCDC in order to enable it to play a proactive role within the United Nations system in an effort to expand the application of technical cooperation among developing countries and effectively implement the strategy for new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries while endeavouring to reduce the delivery cost of future programmes for technical cooperation among developing countries;

8. Calls upon the intergovernmental meeting of experts to be convened in New York from 31 July to 4 August 1995 to take fully into account the report on the ninth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, with special emphasis upon the decision on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, and to propose recommendations for practical application of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries;

9. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its tenth session information on the progress made in the implementation of the present decision.

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Technical cooperation among
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1 June 1995

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Draft decision recommended by the Chairman
of the Working Group

[9/3] Overall framework for the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decision 8/1, paragraph 2, in which it requested the Bureau of the High-level Committee to adjust the dates for submission of accurate and timely information by Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations for the preparation of progress reports on implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/

Taking note of the report on the timing of future meetings of the High-level Committee, 2/

Taking note also of the report on implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries, 3/

1. Endorses the recommendation of the Bureau of the High-level Committee that the present arrangements and timing be maintained, providing to United Nations organizations and Governments the opportunity of presenting updated reports to the Committee;

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ TCDC/9/4, chap. I.

3/ Ibid., chap. II.

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2. Calls upon the agencies of the United Nations system, at the forthcoming meeting of agency focal points to review the status of the application of the guidelines, to further refine and improve the policies and procedures within the United Nations system and to prepare a report for consideration by the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

3. Recognizes the essential role played by the Special Unit for TCDC in the promotion and expansion of technical cooperation among developing countries and its key position in the implementation of the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, including the provision of information on centres of excellence in developing countries;

4. Reiterates the urgent need to maintain the separate identity of the Special Unit, and welcomes the reaffirmation by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme of his decision to that effect;

5. Recommends that the staffing of the Special Unit be strengthened and that resources for its effective operation be increased appropriately.

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TCDC

Technical cooperation among developing countries

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1 June 1995

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Ninth session
New York, 30 May-2 June 1995

Draft decision

Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its ninth session,

1. Approves the following provisional agenda for its tenth session, to be held in 1997:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the President of the session.

3. Election of officers other than the President.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission.

6. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:

(a) Progress made in the implementation of new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries;

(b) Implementation of the guidelines for the review of policies and procedures by the United Nations development system concerning technical cooperation among developing countries.

7. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, information and financial).

8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

9. Provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the High-level Committee.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report on the session.

2. Requests its Bureau, in cooperation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to adjust the draft provisional agenda for the tenth session, as approved at the ninth session, taking fully into account the results of the ninth session, as well as developments relevant to technical cooperation among developing countries around the world, including at the United Nations and other important international forums. The draft provisional agenda should be circulated to all States at the latest three months in advance of the tenth session.